

When I brought this property several years ago, the owner told me she could not get anything to grow in the backyard. I said you WATCH Me!! I started transplanting violets, from the farm where I grew up, under the BIG Maple tree. I knew violets would grow in shade.

My next project was to get rid of that awful water maple, but with the help of KU, some great linemen, a complimentary Tulip Tree from the Division of Forest, that water maple is now becoming a food source for the woodpeckers. The Tulip Tree grows taller everyday.

The great part of using mostly native plants, no fertilizer, just use my electric leave shredder and put the leaves back on the native flowers.

Most of my native flowers I grew up with at the farm. With all the shade they were perfect for my backyard all I had to do was start moving them from the farm to my BIG Maple Tree. Who else do you know that would plant Nettle in a backyard? Than I need some jewelweed, so when I back against the nettles, I could rub jewelweed on the burn.

I don't water, except the annuals in the plants containers. I grew up on a farm with well water, therefore water is never to be wasted. Native flowers will simply go back into the ground when we don't get rain. On the other hand, to much rain, as we have had for the last year, means to many flowers, I've been giving them away! Do you need some???

I have *Fragaria virginiana*, too many, I make wild strawberry jam, strawberry bread, and fresh berries with whipped cream. They would be great for a sunny slope. Do you need any???

The invasive honeysuckle shrubs up the drive way on the north side are slowing being replaced with native shrubs: Carolina Buckthorn has replaced 3 bushes. I hope to add more this fall.